

REMARKS

Status of claims

Claims 1, 5-6 and 11-13 are pending, of which claims 1 and 12 are independent. Claim 12 has been amended to correct informalities in claim language and to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the following comments is respectfully solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowance of claims 1, 5-6 and 11, and the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 12-13 if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Although Applicants agree that the claims are patentable, it is respectfully submitted that the allowed or allowable claims should be entitled to the broadest reasonable interpretation and to the broadest range of equivalents that are appropriate in light of the language of the claims and the supporting disclosure, without reference to the statement of reasons for allowance stated in the present Office Action.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made to claim 12 overcome this rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 12-13.

Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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